

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2752

INFO USUN NEW YORK 4676

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5776

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GT SHUM

SUBJECT: DE LEON SCHLOTTER TALKS OF WORLD CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN
RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING RETURN TO GUATEMALA WORLDCHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC UNION SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE
FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS PART OF EFFORT TO
PROMPT US TO ASSUME LEAD IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HE ALSO
CRITICIZED LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION FOR VACUUM OF AUTHORITY
IN MEETING PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DCG LEADER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL WORLD CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC UNION (WCOU) RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER IN PRESS
CONFERENCE AUGUST 13 SAID THAT ONE OF HIS MAJOR PRIORITIES
AS WCOU LEADER HAS BEEN AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SPECIFICALLY,
HE HAS TRIED TO HARNESS WCOU IN EFFORT TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENTS ON CIVIL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS RATIFIED
BY SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF STATES TO ENTER INTO FORCE.

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3. ADDITIONALLY, WCOU HAS APPEARED BEFORE UN AS NON-

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO PROPOSE THAT UN CHARTER
BE AMENDED TO UPGRADE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN

ECOSOC TO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH GREATER CAPACITY
TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS AND GREATER AUTHORITY TO
DENOUNCE THEM AND TO SEEK CONDEMNATION OF OFFENDING
STATES. ALTERNATIVELY, DE LEON SAID A HIGH COMMISSIONER
OR OTHER AUTHORITY WITH THE SAME FUNCTIONS COULD BE
CREATED. WCOU WILL TRY TO CONVENE AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF
NATIONS INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT AT UNGA THIS FALL.

4. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR WCOU HAS BEEN MOBILIZATION OF
DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANISTIC FORCES IN US TO SENSITIZE
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION TO PROBLEM SO THAT US WOULD LEAD
WESTERN WORLD IN THIS EFFORT AT UN AND WOULD ALSO MODIFY
TERMS OF ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH LATIN AMERICA. FOR THIS
PURPOSE DE LEON SAID HE APPEARED BEFORE THE FRASER SUB-
COMMITTEE.

5. DE LEON ADDED THAT HE IS TRYING TO ORGANIZE AN ANNUAL
MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WCOU, THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL, AND THE "LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL" (SIC)
TO DISCUSS ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL IN
HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

6. REGARDING GUATEMALA, DE LEON COMMENTED THAT AS CONGRESSMAN
IN 1971 HE BEGAN TO DENOUNCE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE,
ESPECIALLY "INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE" AND POLITICAL
VIOLENCE THAT STEMMED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE
RIGHT. AS PRE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1974 HE
CONTINUED TO DENOUNCE REPRESSION, PARTICULARLY FROM
THE MLN AND THEN PRESIDENT ARANA. FOLLOWING THE FRAUD
OF 1974 HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF
"SOMOZIZATION", MEANING THE GAINING OF CONTROL
OVER THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA BY SOMOZA EITHER
DIRECTLY, OR THROUGH GOVERNMENTS OF REGION.

7. DE LEON ADDED THAT PRESENT PROBLEM IN GUATEMALA
REFLECTS NOT ONLY INCREASE IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
VIOLENCE BUT SERIOUS VACUUM IN AUTHORITY. EVERY DAY
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MORE CRIMINAL ACTS BY AUTHORITIES ARE DENOUNCED AND IN-
CREDIBLY NOBODY RESPONDS AND NO ONE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY.

8. COMMENT: DE LEON'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS FIRST ATTEMPT
SINCE HIS RETURN TO ANSWER HIS CRITICS AND THOSE OF DCG
FOLLOWING HIS CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE. BY PLACING HIS
APPEARANCE BEFORE FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE IN CONTEXT OF WORLD
CAMPAIGN BY WCOU ON HUMAN RIGHTS DE LEON APPEARS TO BE

TRYING TO MEET CHARGES (FROM MLN MOSTLY) THAT HIS CRITICAL TESTIMONY WAS TREASONOUS. HOWEVER, DESPITE PLEA THAT HIS VIEWS BE PUBLISHED, ONLY MORNING DAILY GRAFICO, OWNED BY BROTHER OF DCG CONGRESSMAN ROBERTO CARPIO NICOLLE, AND INDEPENDENT AFTERNOON JOURNAL IMPARCIAL GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRESS CONFERENCE. OTHER PAPERS EITHER IGNORED IT OR MENTIONED IT ONLY BRIEFLY, FOCUSING ON DE LEON'S COMMENTS ON GUATEMALA. MLN, PROBABLY IN EFFORT TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM SUBSTANCE OF DE LEON'S REMARKS, HE SAID IT IS AGAIN CONSIDERING BRINGING CHARGES FOR LIBEL. WHILE FUROR REGARDING DE LEON'S TESTIMONY WILL PROBABLY DIE DOWN NOW, DMG SECRETARY GENERAL VINICIO CEREZO TOLD EMOFF THAT HE BELIEVES DCG HAS GAINED CONSIDERABLY FROM AFFAIR IN THAT IT IS MORE IDENTIFIED THAN EVER IN PEOPLE'S MINDS AS DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

ANDREWS

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